

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8666

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5546

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, AF

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS

REF: STATE 171412

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPUTY SECRETARIAT CHIEF HAS TOLD US THAT FOLLOWING PERSONS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE TWO AUGUST MEETINGS IN COLOMBO:

2. AT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE, AUGUST 11-14: WAHEED ABDULLAH, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER; HABIBULLAH TARZI, RECENTLY NAMED DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE; ZABIHULLAH ELTEZAM, PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN'S RECENTLY FOUNDED EXPORT PROMOTION BANK; YAHYA MAROOFI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA); AND ABDUL AHAD NASSER-ZIAYEE, DEPUTY CHIEF FOR SECRETARIAT, MFA. NASSER-ZIAYEE SAID ALSO THAT THE AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, ABDUR RAHMAN PAZHWAK, MAY ALSO ATTEND THIS SESSION BUT THIS IS STILL NOT CERTAIN.

2. SUMMIT CONFERENCE, AUGUST 16-19: PRESIDENT DAOUD; MINISTER OF PLANNING ALI AHMAD KHURRAM; MINISTER OF COMMERCE
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HOHAMMAD KHAN JALALLAR; AMBASSADOR TO INDIA ABDUR RAHMAN

PAZHWAK; SAMAD GHAS, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MFA; ZIA YUSUF, ASST DIRECTOR FOR CONFERENCES, MFA; AND AN ASSISTANT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL FROM MFA, PROBABLY MR. ANWAR NOWROZ. THREE AIDES-DE-CAMP OF PRESIDENT DAUD WILL ALSO TRAVEL TO COLOMBO, PLUS "A HOST" (NASSER-ZIAEE'S WORDS) OF PRESS PEOPLE REPRESENTING AFGHANISTAN'S OFFICIAL BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY.

3. AFGHANISTAN SENT AN OBSERVER DELEGATION TO THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING MEETING IN ALGIERS, AND WE THOUGHT GOA MIGHT HAVE SIMILAR EXPECTATIONS FOR THE PRE-NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING OF THE NACC EARLIER IN AUGUST. NASSER-ZIAEE SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS "NOT YET MADE UP ITS MIND" ABOUT THIS, LEADING US TO SPECULATE AFGHANISTAN WOULD LIKE TO BE REPRESENTED, BUT GOA DOES NOT QUITE KNOW WHETHER THIS WILL BE WELCOME.

4. WE FIRST HAD BEEN TOLD THAT WAHEED ABDULLAH AND ACCOMPANYING PARTY WOULD LEAVE COLOMBO TO BE ON HAND BACK HERE IN KABUL BEFORE PRESIDENT DAUD'S DEPARTURE FOR THE SUMMIT. AGAIN ACCORDING TO NASSER-ZIAEE IT NOW LOOKS AS THOUGH PLANS ARE CHANGING AND THAT MRM ABDULLAH WILL STAY ON IN COLOMBO FOR BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS AND SUMMIT CONFERENCES.

5. SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY COLOMBO OFFICERS SEEK OUT GHAS AND NASSER-ZIAEE FOR HELP IN LEARNING OF CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND POSITIONS OF DELEGATIONS. BOTH ARE EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE-ABLE DIPLOMATS WHO HAVE BEEN HELPFUL TO US IN UNDERSTANDING AFGHANISTAN'S OWN POSITION, AND WHO WE THINK MIGHT BE AMENABLE TO HELPING US TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF EVENTS IN COLOMBO. NASSER-ZIAEE IS EASY-GOING AND ESPECIALLY APPROACHABLE. GHAS IS IN EFFECT SECOND RANKING MAN IN MFA, AND SHOULD BE APPROACHED WITH THAT IN MIND.
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